

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Romano GUERMANDI) Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Rule 53(b) Divisional of Application) Examiner: Not yet assigned
Serial No.: 08/951,672)
Filed: September 25, 2001)
For: MOLD FOR VULCANIZING A TIRE)
HAVING A SPECIFIED BELT)
PROFILE IN THE ABSENCE OF)
LOAD AND INFLATING)
PRESSURE (as amended))

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application
as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please enter the enclosed substitute specification filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R.
§ 1.125.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter
thereof, and add new claims 16-21, as follows.

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--16. A mold for vulcanizing a tire comprising axially opposite sidewalls and a tread band molded with a raised pattern formed with at least one circumferential groove, said mold comprising:

a pair of axially opposite cheeks that correspond to the sidewalls of the tire; and
a matrix corresponding to the tread band interposed between said pair of axially opposite cheeks, said matrix including a plurality of ribs, which project in a raised configuration from a radial interior surface of the mold, for forming the raised pattern;

wherein a sectional profile of said radial interior surface comprises two concave side portions, each being defined by a respective center and a respective radius of curvature, and

wherein ridges of the ribs in an area between the two concave side portions define a radially inwardly convex surface tangent.

17. The mold of claim 16, wherein said concave side portions each have a radius of curvature ranging from about 150 mm to about 300 mm.

18. The mold of claim 16, wherein said convex surface tangent has a radius of curvature ranging from about 20 mm to about 150 mm.

19. The mold of claim 16, wherein said at least one circumferential groove corresponds to a central rib centered on an equatorial plane of the mold.

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20. The mold of claim 19, wherein the central rib includes a circumferential depression centered on the equatorial plane of the mold.

21. The mold of claim 20, wherein a ratio of height of the central rib, with respect to the radial interior surface, and depth of the circumferential depression is included between 1.75 and 6.5.--

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, please amend the drawings as shown in red on the attached Request For Approval Of Drawing Change. Specifically, Fig. 3 has been amended by adding the legend --Prior Art--.

REMARKS

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, please enter this Preliminary Amendment. By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant has entered a substitute specification pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.125. The substitute specification, which includes a new title and abstract, contains no new matter. As required by Rule 1.125, Applicant has enclosed herewith a clean version of the substitute specification along with a marked-up version of the substitute specification showing the material both added to and deleted from the original specification.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 25, 2001

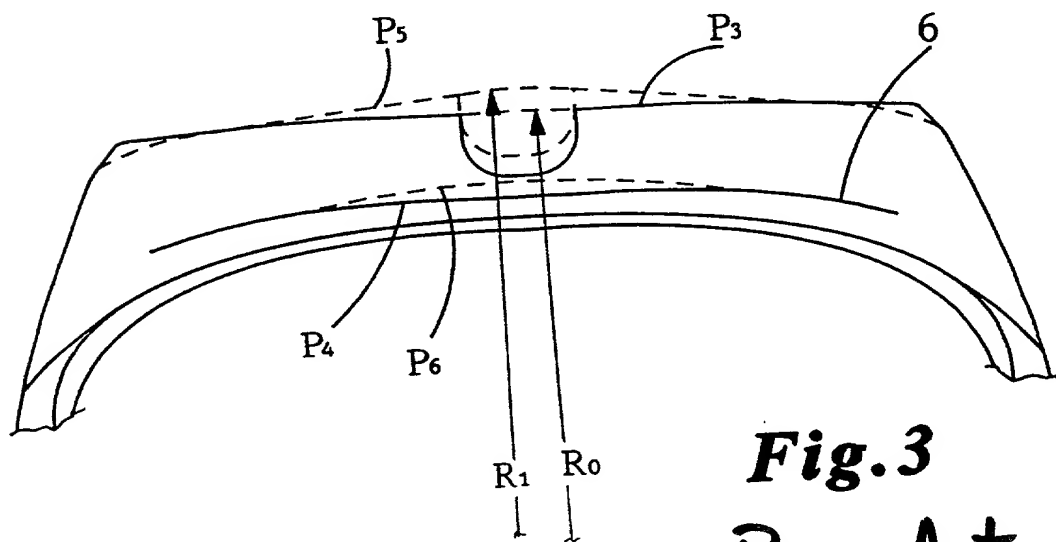
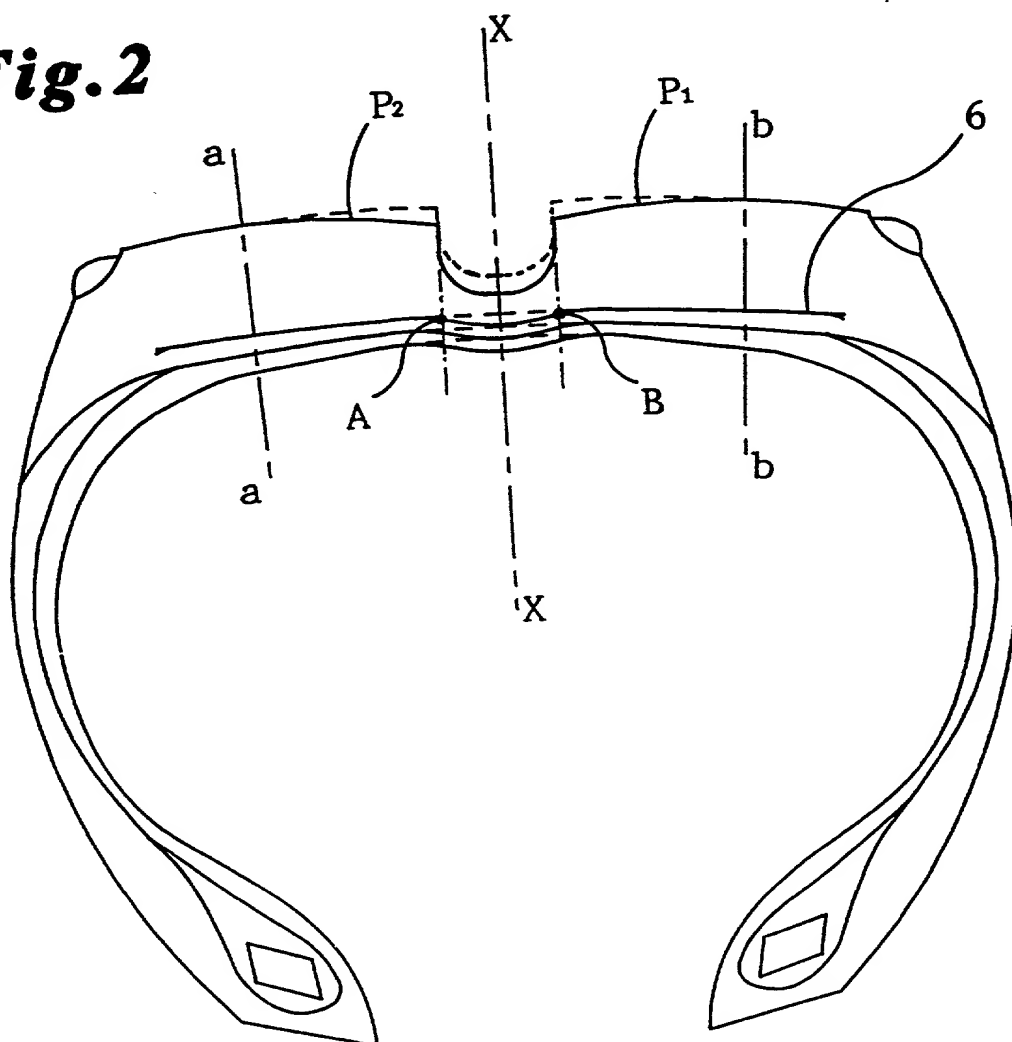
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Fig. 2**Fig. 3**
Prior Art